MODESTY BLAISE

by Peter O'Donnell and Jim Holdaway

• The Head Girls 993-1124

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
THE HEAD GIRLS
A BEACH ON THE ISLAND OF CORATH, IN THE HEBRIDES
WELL, YOU'VE 'AD A GOOD LONG REST, PRINCESS...
A MONTH'S ENOUGH... GLAD YOU JOINED ME FOR THE LAST DAY OR SO, WILLIE — I THOUGHT YOU HAD A HEAVY ROMANCE ON?
NO... I TOLD LORNA TO GET LOST WHILE I CAME UP TO FETCH YOU, AND SHE JUST WALKED OUT! FUNNY GIRL...
BAFFLING! COME ON, LET'S GIVE MY LEG A TRY-OUT
993
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
A WORK-OUT TO ENSURE THAT MODESTY'S WOUNDED LEG IS FULLY HEALED
AH... LET'S SEE 'OW SHE LANDS...
WENT ALL THE WAY DOWN... RECKON THAT RIGHT LEG'S STILL WEAK
YOU LET YOURSELF GET CONNED INTO THAT, WILLIE, LOVE!
AS WILLIE MOVES IN, MODESTY TAKES OFF FROM THE SUSPECT LEG AND —
994
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
IF YOU'RE SATISFIED WITH THE WORK-OUT, LET'S SWIM, WILLIE
BLIMEY...
WELL, I'LL JUST SEE THAT TAKE-OFF FROM THE BAD LEG ONCE MORE...
...BUT LAY OFF THE JAW THIS TIME, EH PRINCESS? IT SPOILS ME FINER JUDGMENT
YOU NEED A LOT OF CONVINCING THAT I HAVEN'T GOT A BAD LEG ANY MORE! ...READY?
MODESTY SOARS UP AND HER FOOT SMACKS HOME
LOVELY... I'LL BUY THAT
995
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
IT'S LUNCH-TIME, PRINCESS — WE'D BETTER GET BACK TO THE COTTAGE AND EAT
I CAN TELL THE TIME BY THE SUN, Y' KNOW
DON'T THINK YOU'RE FOOLING ME, WILLIE — IT'S THAT FIFTEEN-JEWEL STOMACH YOU GO BY
WHAT DO YOU FANCY? I COULD GRILL YOU A NICE STEAK
WITH TWO EGGS ON TOP?
996

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
WE'LL CUT ACROSS THIS WAY— IT'S A FEW MINUTES QUICKER
AVOIDS ALL THE 'URLY-BURLY OF THE CROWDS, TOO
THE TWO FROM THE BEACH—THEY'LL PASS RIGHT BY HERE!
YOU WANT TO DISMANTLE THE GEAR AND HIDE TILL THEY'VE GONE?
NO TIME FOR THAT...WE'LL INTERCEPT THEM
997

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
OL' TARRANT SENT 'IS "WARM REGARDS", PRINCESS
WARM REGARDS? GETTING ALMOST BRAZEN, ISN'T HE?
NOT THIS WAY, PLEASE! YOU'LL HAVE TO GO ROUND BY THE TRACK— YOU'RE TRESPASSING HERE
TRESPASSING...? ON WHOSE GROUND?
998

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
I SAID 'TURN BACK! THIS IS A GOVERNMENT RESEARCH AREA— AND WE'RE ONE OF THE 'ROVING PATROLS
I'M SORRY, WE DIDN'T REALISE...
Take them, Willie—over the top
WITH HAIR-TRIGGER REACTION TO THE UNEXPECTED COMMAND, WILLIE BACK-FLIPS IN PERFECT UNISON WITH MODESTY
999

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
AS MODESTY AND WILLIE COMPLETE THEIR SURPRISE BACK-FLIPS...
YOU WANT THIS ONE CHILLED TOO, PRINCESS, OR—?
NEVER MIND— I GET NERVOUS WHEN BLOKES START WAVIN' GUNS ABOUT
1000

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
WELL... WE DID THAT VERY NICE AND SMOOTH, I RECKON— THERE'S ONLY ONE THING I'M WONDERIN', PRINCESS
WHY DID WE COOL OFF A COUPLE OF GUARDS PATROLLING A GOVERNMENT RESEARCH AREA?
THEY'RE NOT GUARDS, WILLIE— THEY CAN'T BE
THE PERIMETER OF THE RESEARCH AREA LIES A GOOD HALF-MILE WEST AND THE GUARDS WEAR BLUE LAPEL-BUTTONS ... I'VE BEEN HERE A MONTH, SO I KNOW
AH... WE'LL TAKE A QUICK LOOK AROUND THEN, EH?
1001

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

Willie and Modesty find the periscopic movie-camera

LOVELY JOB... YOU CAN GET A GOOD GENERAL VIEW OF THE WORKING AREA

RECKON THOSE TWO ARE FOREIGN AGENTS OR JUST ON INDUSTRIAL ESPIONAGE, PRINCESS?

THEY'RE I. E. MEN, WILLIE — I'VE JUST REMEMBERED ONE OF THEM, EXCEPT THAT HE WAS WEARING A MOUSTACHE FIVE YEARS AGO... LET'S GO AND DELIVER THEM

1002

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

At the entrance to the research area

ALL RIGHT, MATEY, WE'RE NOT COMING IN TO PINCH YOUR NEW ATOMIC MOUSE-TRAP

PERISCOPIC MOVIE-CAMERA, TWO REELS OF FILM, SUNDRY LENSES, ONE .41 MAGNUM, ONE .38 SPECIAL...

AN' TWO INDUSTRIAL SPIES, WITH OUR COMPLIMENTS — YOU DON'T EVEN 'AVE TO SIGN FOR 'EM

1003

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

HEY, WAIT! WHO *ARE* YOU?

WELLS FARGO

WAIT TILL THE OLD MAN SEES THIS LOT!

HE'LL WANT TO KNOW WHO CLEANED THE WHOLE THING UP... AND *I'M* NOT TELLING HIM WELLS FARGO!

I'VE SEEN THE GIRL BEFORE, SHE'S GOT A RENTED COTTAGE ON THE COAST, ABOUT A MILE EAST... BUT THE BIG FELLER'S NEW HERE

1004

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

In the research area on the island of Coirath, a rocket motor with a new type of ceramic lining screams through the final seconds of a test...

WELL... YOU'VE DONE IT, SIR — CONGRATULATIONS

I'LL LAY ODDS A GRATEFUL GOVERNMENT HOPES I'LL SETTLE FOR NOT MUCH MORE THAN THAT, TOO

YOU TELL *ME*, AND *I'LL* DECIDE WHETHER THE MATTER CALLS FOR —

NOW LISTEN! AS CHIEF SECURITY OFFICER I'M *TELLING* YOU TO PUT MR. BELL HIMSELF ON THE LINE!

1005

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

WHAT THE HELL IS IT, SHARON?

IT'S THE CHIEF SECURITY OFFICER — I'M SORRY, BUT HE INSISTS ON YOU SPEAKING TO HIM PERSONALLY, MR. BELL

I THINK MISS DALE HAS SOMETHING FOR YOU, SIR

DOES HE? WELL, I'LL DO JUST THAT...

CARSON BELL HERE — NOW LISTEN, *KNUCKLEHEAD!* THERE'S NOTHING, REPEAT *NOTHING* MY SECRETARY CAN'T DEAL WITH FOR ME! SHE'S THE BEST, AND SHE KNOWS *EVERYTHING!*

NOT QUITE EVERYTHING...

1006

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

ALL RIGHT! SO YOU PICKED UP A COUPLE OF INDUSTRIAL SPIES WITH A LOAD OF CAMERA GEAR— YOU WANT ME TO PIN A MEDAL ON YOU?
NO, MR. BELL, I'VE GOT A MEDAL... I JUST FELT I SHOULD TELL YOU
TELL ME? WHY? I DON'T BEND YOUR EAR WITH FORMULAE, DO I? SO DON'T BOTHER ME WITH YOUR JOB, YOU CLOWN!
1007

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

IF THE PERFECT SECRETARY SAYS SO, I WON'T ARGUE... MAYBE TAKING A LOOK AT WHAT HE'S GOT WILL SMOOTH HIM DOWN
YOU WERE A LITTLE ROUGH WITH THAT SECURITY OFFICER, MR. BELL
A FEW MINUTES LATER...
YOUR BOYS DID A GOOD JOB, NAILING THEM
LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE HIT THEM PRETTY DAMN HARD... AND THEY WERE ARMED, TOO
NOT MY BOYS, MR. BELL... A MAN AND A YOUNG WOMAN DID IT— I'D BE FASCINATED TO KNOW HOW
SO WOULD I...!
1008

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

IN THE LITTLE COTTAGE MODESTY HAS RENTED...
GO AND SIT DOWN, WILLIE— IT'LL BE READY TO SERVE IN A COUPLE OF MINUTES
I CAN'T 'AVE YOU WAITING ON ME, PRINCESS... YOU'RE CONVALESCENT
TELL ME AS SOON AS IT'S DONE— THEN YOU SIT DOWN, EH?
WILLIE LOVE... GET AWAY FROM THE STOVE AND DON'T BE DAMN SILLY
AT THE RESEARCH STATION, SHARON DALE SPEAKS URGENTLY INTO A TRANSCEIVER DISGUISED AS A VANITY CASE
RAINBOW CALLING FIDO 2 — PRIORITY!
1009

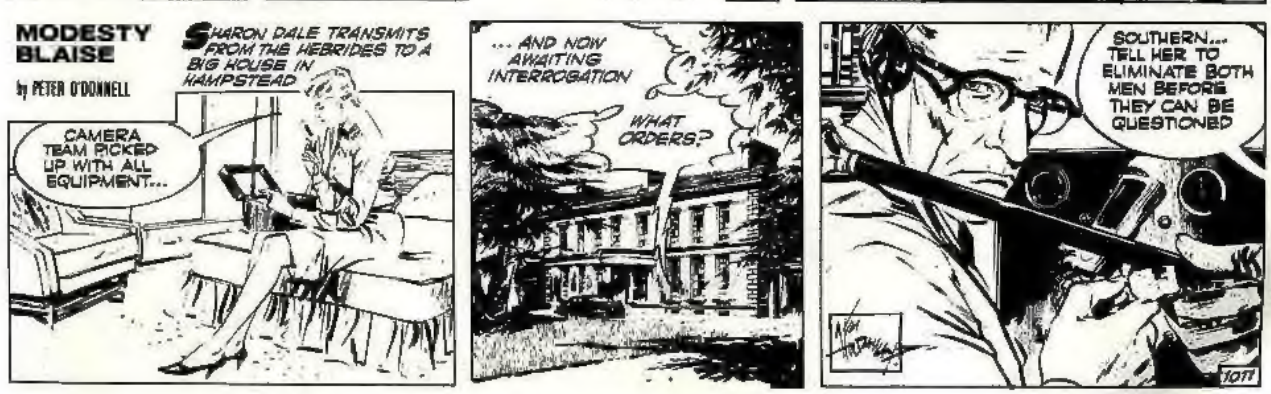
MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

RAINBOW CALLING! PRIORITY!
IT'S THE DALE GIRL — SHE WOULDN'T CALL FROM COIRATH UNLESS IT WAS URGENT
FIDO 2 ANSWERING— GO AHEAD, RAINBOW
SWITCH THE SPEAKER ON, SOUTHERN— I WANT TO HEAR
1010

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL


SHARON DALE TRANSMITS FROM THE HEBRIDES TO A BIG HOUSE IN HAMPSTEAD
CAMERA TEAM PICKED UP WITH ALL EQUIPMENT...
... AND NOW AWAITING INTERROGATION
WHAT ORDERS?
SOUTHERN... TELL HER TO ELIMINATE BOTH MEN BEFORE THEY CAN BE QUESTIONED
1011

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
SHARON DALE GETS HER INSTRUCTIONS
FIDO 2 TO RAINBOW— FIDO 1 ORDERS YOU ELIMINATE CAMERA TEAM BEFORE INTERROGATION BEGINS
YOU WANT HER TO REPORT WHAT HAPPENS?
WHY? YOU'VE ALREADY TOLD HER WHAT HAPPENS, SOUTHERN
I'M GOING OVER TO INSPECT OUR PARIS BRANCH, AND I'LL BE BACK TOMORROW
COME, HENRY...
1012
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
IN THE LITTLE COTTAGE ON THE ISLAND OF COIRATH
"...AND WINE THAT MAKETH GLAD THE 'EART OF MAN." PSALM 104, VERSE 15
I'LL ANSWER IT... BUT WE'VE RUN INTO TWO VILLAINS ALREADY—I THINK YOU'D BETTER COVER ME, WILLIE LOVE
SO DO I
NAME'S CARSON BELL... JUST CURIOUS TO SEE WHO IT WAS THAT TOOK CARE OF THOSE TWO SPY-MERCHANTS
COME IN, MR. BELL
1013
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
HAVE YOU HAD LUNCH, MR. BELL?
IF THAT'S AN INVITATION, I'LL GLADLY ACCEPT
WILLIE WON'T MIND SHARING— THERE'S PLENTY HERE FOR TWO
WILLIE... WHO?
I'M AFRAID IT MAY BE A SHOCK, BUT I'M MODESTY BLAISE AND THIS IS WILLIE GARVIN ...WE'VE HAD DEALINGS WITH YOU IN THE PAST, YOU MAY REMEMBER
DAMN RIGHT, I REMEMBER!
1014
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
WE'VE RETIRED NOW— BUT I'LL TAKE BACK MY 'ALF OF THAT STEAK IF YOU'D RATHER NOT EAT WITH US...?
MODESTY BLAISE...YOU STOLE THE FORMULA FOR THAT NEW ALLOY FROM MY ORGANISATION, FIVE YEARS AGO
I'VE NO GRUDGE... YOU GAVE ME FIRST OPTION TO BUY MY OWN SECRETS BACK AT CUT PRICE — AND YOU HONOURED THE DEAL
WE WERE ALWAYS SLIGHTLY HONEST ... HAVE YOU QUESTIONED THOSE MEN WE BROUGHT IN YET?
AT THE RESEARCH STATION...
THEY'RE... DEAD, SIR!
1015
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
POISON, BY THE LOOK OF IT!
I THOUGHT I'D COLLECT THE TRAYS BEFORE YOU BEGAN QUESTIONING —
WHAT'S HAPPENED?
YOU'D BETTER NOT COME IN, MISS DALE, IT ISN'T VERY PLEASANT... THEY'RE BOTH DEAD!
1016

THE HEAD GIRLS

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
DEAD? BUT... BUT HOW?
THEY MUST HAVE CARRIED POISON PELLETS HIDDEN ON THEM
IN MODESTY'S COTTAGE. THE MEAL IS OVER
YOU TWO BUSY THIS AFTERNOON?
JUST PACKING — WE CATCH THE BOAT TOMORROW
WELL JUST FOR A LAUGH, COME BACK TO THE RESEARCH STATION WITH ME — I WANT TO SEE THE SECURITY OFFICER'S FACE WHEN HE FINDS ME SHOWING MODESTY BLAISE AROUND!
1017

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
AH, THERE YOU ARE, BOLTON — SAY HALLO TO SOME FRIENDS OF MINE. YOU MAY KNOW THE NAMES —
MR. BELL, THOSE TWO INDUSTRIAL SPIES ARE DEAD — THEY TOOK POISON!
THEY WHAT? LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT THEM!
IT'S HARDLY A SIGHT FOR THE YOUNG LADY —
I DOUBT IF IT WILL WORRY MODESTY BLAISE — COME ON, WILLIE
1018

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
WE'LL LEAVE THE SECURITY BOYS TO SORT THIS OUT, I'M NOT INTERESTED — AND I'M DUE AT THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, TOMORROW
IF YOU'D LIKE A LIFT, I'M ONLY TAKING MY SECRETARY SO THERE'S PLENTY OF ROOM IN THE 'COPTER — WE LEAVE AT DAWN
THANK YOU... WE'LL BE THERE
CARSON BELL PILOTS HIS OWN HELICOPTER
KNOW WHAT WE'VE BEEN TESTING DOWN THERE, MODESTY?
ROCKET ENGINE, AND WILLIE GUESSED AT SOME NEW TYPE OF LINING... HE'S USUALLY RIGHT
1020

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
MY NEW CERAMIC LINING FOR ROCKET ENGINES PUTS US SIX, SEVEN YEARS AHEAD OF ANYTHING ELSE IN THE FIELD
BUT WE DON'T SEND UP MANY ROCKETS...
DAMN RIGHT WE DON'T — SO THE GOVERNMENT'S LICENSING MANUFACTURE IN THE STATES... IT'S ALL FIXED, EXCEPT FOR MY OWN TERMS
WHAT WOULD YOU ASK FOR THE FORMULA, MODESTY?
A MILLION STERLING AND TWENTY PERCENT OF THE PROFITS
AND I'D WATCH MY BACK... THERE'S A BIG BOY AFTER YOUR FORMULA
1021

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
LONDON...
BUT I'D LIKE TO STAY WITH YOU TILL THIS IS FINISHED, MR. BELL—
IT IS FINISHED, AND YOU NEED A BREAK, SHARON — SO DON'T LET ME SEE YOU AT THE OFFICE TILL NEXT WEEK
THE PERFECT SECRETARY... HOW DO YOU READ HER, WILLIE?
'ARD TO FIGURE, PRINCESS, BUT SHE'S VERY DEEP... AN' VERY CAPABLE
OF ANYTHING?
JUST ABOUT...
1022

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
ARE YOU QUITE SURE YOUR FORMULA HASN'T LEAKED IN ANY WAY?
IT ONLY EXISTS HERE, IN MY HEAD
TOUGH TO MEMORISE
BUT WORTH IT, WILLIE — I ONCE LEARNT AN EXPENSIVE LESSON
LAST TIME I PUT A FORMULA ON PAPER IT COST ME FIFTY THOUSAND— REMEMBER?
HARDLY EXPENSIVE... OUR PRICES WERE ALWAYS VERY KEEN
1023

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
I HAVE TO GO STRAIGHT TO THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE — BUT CAN WE STAY IN TOUCH?
CALL ME WHEN YOU'RE FREE...
... AND WE'LL RUN DOWN TO WILLIE'S PUB, "THE TREADMILL" — AS AN INVENTOR, YOU'LL LIKE HIS WORKSHOP
SHOVE OVER, WENG
AT THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE...
MY WARM CONGRATULATIONS, BELL — THE P.M. IS DELIGHTED WITH THE SUCCESS OF YOUR TESTS
I DIDN'T IMAGINE HE'D BE SHEDDING TEARS AT SOMETHING WORTH MILLIONS IN EXPORT
1024

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
NO, THEY'RE REASONABLE — CONFIRMED BY ADVICE FROM AN EXPERT
YOUR TERMS ARE VERY HIGH, BELL...
OH? MAY I ASK WHO?
YOU MAY NOT, MINISTER
H'MM, WELL, I'M — ER HAPPY TO TELL YOU THAT THE CABINET HAS AUTHORISED ME TO MEET THE TERMS YOU PROPOSE... AS AN UPPER LIMIT, I MAY SAY!
YOU MAY — AND I'M DELIGHTED TO HEAR IT
1025

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
IT'S SIMPLY A MATTER OF ENTERING THE AGREED FIGURES ON YOUR CONTRACT — PROVISIONAL CONTRACTS WITH THE UNITED STATES HAVE ALREADY BEEN DRAWN UP...
YOU HAVE THE FORMULA FOR US?
IT DOESN'T EXIST ON PAPER — I'M READY TO DICTATE IT NOW
DICTATE IT?
THAT'S WHAT I SAID, MINISTER
...MISS MARSH, COME IN PLEASE
REMARKABLE! WELL...
1026

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL

ONLY ONE COPY OF WHAT MR. BELL DICTATES TO YOU — USE NO CARBONS OR BACKING SHEET, MISS MARSH
VERY GOOD, MINISTER
THE FORMULA WILL GO STRAIGHT INTO MY SAFE, BELL, SO YOU NEED HAVE NO SECURITY WORRIES
SECURITY'S YOUR WORRY FROM NOW ON... RIGHT, YOUNG LADY, HEAD IT: "BELL CERAMIC — FORMULA AND PROCESS"
FIRST SUB-HEAD "Materials" — Al; Al_2O_3...
1027

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL

SLOWLY CARSON BELL FINISHES DICTATING THE LONG AND COMPLICATED FORMULA
RIGHT... THAT'S THE LOT
WILL YOU CHECK IT PLEASE, SIR?
DAMN GOOD... I THOUGHT I WAS THE ONLY ONE WITH A PERFECT SECRETARY!
THANK YOU, SIR
THIS STAYS IN THE SAFE FOR A COUPLE OF DAYS UNTIL THE AMERICAN CONTRACTS ARE SIGNED — WHERE CAN I REACH YOU THEN IF NEED BE?
TRY A PUB CALLED "The Treadmill"...
1028

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL

LATE EVENING, IN MODESTY'S PENT-HOUSE . . .
A MR. CARSON BELL ON THE PHONE, MISS BLAISE
ASK HIM TO HANG ON FOR ONE MINUTE, PLEASE WENG
AH, HALLO THERE — WHAT ARE YOU DOING RIGHT NOW, MODESTY?
CARVING AN EMERALD
LET IT WAIT — I CLOSED THAT DEAL TODAY. SO HOW ABOUT MY FINANCIAL ADVISER COMING OUT TO CELEBRATE?
NOT TONIGHT ... BUT REMEMBER MY OTHER ADVICE, CARSON — WATCH YOUR BACK!
1029

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL

WONDER WHY MODESTY KEEPS WARNING ME? THE FORMULA'S BEEN DELIVERED AND EVERYTHING'S SEWN UP NOW...
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?
ME? HENRY...
THE SQUAT, IMMENSELY POWERFUL FIGURE MOVES WITH ASTONISHING SPEED . . .
UHH!
1030

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL

IN RAND'S CLUB... WILLIE GARVIN IS A GUEST OF SIR GERALD TARRANT
WONDER IF TARRANT AND HIS BIZARRE FRIEND MIGHT MAKE UP A FOUR FOR BRIDGE
DOUBT IF THE CHAP PLAYS — BUT WE CAN ASK
YES, I-ER-THINK MR. GARVIN KNOWS THE GAME
WE'LL PLAY WHATEVER STAKES SUIT HIM, OF COURSE
SURE... LET'S MAKE IT A POUND A POINT, EH?
1031

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

NO NEED, SIR G.— I'VE WATCHED 'EM PLAY
I'M ALL FOR SKINNING THOSE TWO, WILLIE— BUT NO SLEIGHT OF HAND, PLEASE
THEY CAN JUST ABOUT COUNT TRUMPS AND COURT CARDS, BUT THEY'RE BAD ON DEDUCTION AN' THEY CAN'T RECKON ODDS— DON'T WORRY, WE'LL GET YOU A NEW CAR OUT OF THIS!
IN CARSON BELL'S HOTEL SUITE...
1032

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

HENRY HAS DISPOSED OF CARSON BELL... SO THE MIND CONTAINING THE FORMULA HAS CEASED TO EXIST
AND AS FOR THE WRITTEN FORMULA IN THE SAFE AT THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE...
YES... THAT'S TAKEN CARE OF, TOO
A FIERCE EXPLOSION RENDS PART OF A BUILDING IN WHITEHALL...
1033

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

AN URGENT PHONE-CALL FOR YOU, SIR GERALD
ALL RIGHT, BAINES...
DID YOU FIND OUT ANYTHING ABOUT THAT BIG BANG WE HEARD A LITTLE WHILE AGO?
I UNDERSTAND THERE'S A FIRE IN WHITEHALL, SIR, BUT THERE'S NO NEWS ABOUT WHAT CAUSED IT
SMALL SLAM... SHALL WE SEE IF SIR GERALD CAN STAY FOR ANOTHER RUBBER— OR SETTLE UP NOW?
I THINK WE'LL CALL IT A DAY, THANK YOU— AN EXPENSIVE DAY!
1034

MODESTY BLAISE

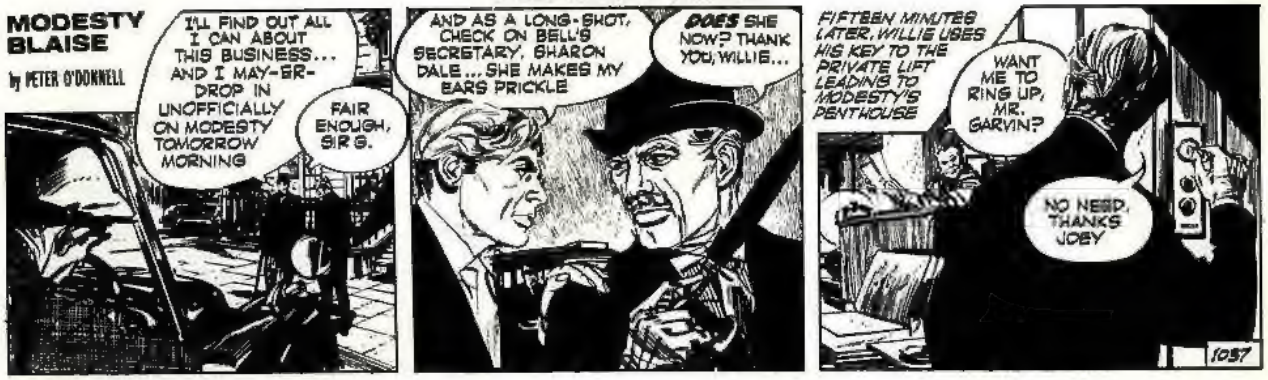
by PETER O'DONNELL

THE VANQUISHED 'AVE DEPARTED, SIR G.— 'ERE'S YOUR SHARE OF THE WINNINGS, TAX FREE... I RECKON WE'VE EARNED OURSELVES A NIGHTCAP
MY GOD, I DON'T THINK THEY'LL BE PATRONISING TOWARDS YOU AGAIN, WILLIE! BUT I'M AFRAID I CAN'T STAY FOR A NIGHTCAP...
SOMETHING'S BLOWN UP... PART OF THE DEFENCE MINISTRY TO BE EXACT...
AND THAT'S NOT ALL...
1035

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

ABOUT THE SAME TIME THAT THE EXPLOSION TOOK PLACE AT THE MINISTRY, YOUR FRIEND CARSON BELL WAS MURDERED AT HIS HOTEL
I WONDER... WAS BELL'S FORMULA DESTROYED IN THE BLOW-UP?
YES, THE SAFE WAS TORN APART AND EVERYTHING IN IT BURNT TO ASHES... I HAVE TO SEE THE MINISTER RIGHT AWAY
I'LL GO AN' TELL MODESTY ...SHE LIKED OL' BELL, AND SHE WON'T LIKE THIS— NOR DO I
1036


MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
I'LL FIND OUT ALL I CAN ABOUT THIS BUSINESS... AND I MAY-ER-DROP IN UNOFFICIALLY ON MODESTY TOMORROW MORNING
FAIR ENOUGH, SIR G.
AND AS A LONG-SHOT, CHECK ON BELL'S SECRETARY, SHARON DALE... SHE MAKES MY EARS PRICKLE
DOES SHE NOW? THANK YOU, WILLIE...
FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER, WILLIE USES HIS KEY TO THE PRIVATE LIFT LEADING TO MODESTY'S PENTHOUSE
WANT ME TO RING UP, MR. GARVIN?
NO NEED, THANKS JOEY
1037

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
MODESTY ROUSES FROM SLEEP AS A BUZZER SOUNDS SOFTLY BESIDE HER BED...
THE LIFT...
WILLIE?
YES, PRINCESS — SORRY TO WAKE YOU BUT IT'S IMPORTANT
WENG — IT'S MR. GARVIN, IS HIS ROOM READY IF HE NEEDS IT?
ALWAYS READY, MISS BLAISE
1038

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
TROUBLE, WILLIE?
IT'S NOT OUR TROUBLE YET, PRINCESS — BUT SOMEONE BLEW UP A CHUNK OF THE DEFENCE MINISTRY 'ALF-AN-HOUR AGO
AND... SOMEONE MURDERED CARSON BELL
SO I RECKONED MAYBE...?
YES... THAT MAKES IT OUR TROUBLE, WILLIE
1039

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
HOW WAS CARSON BELL MURDERED?
I DON'T KNOW ANY DETAILS, PRINCESS — BUT TARRANT'S GOING TO LOOK IN AND SEE YOU TOMORROW...
SO I THOUGHT I'D BETTER STAY THE NIGHT IN CASE YOU WANTED ME
MURDER... AND ARSON AT THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE...
AND SOMEONE KNOCKED OFF THOSE INDUSTRIAL SPIES — THAT WASN'T SUICIDE
NO... THERE'S A BIG BOY OPERATING ON THIS, WILLIE — A VERY BIG BOY
1040

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
NOTHING MUCH WE CAN DO TILL WE GET DETAILS FROM TARRANT TOMORROW, I RECKON
NO... WHAT LITTLE WE KNOW DOESN'T ADD UP YET
BUT IT WILL, AND THEN WE'LL DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT... GOODNIGHT, WILLIE LOVE
'NIGHT, PRINCESS
IN A COTTAGE ON THE EAST COAST...
MR. SOUTHERN? SHARON DALE SPEAKING... I'VE DECIDED THAT I'M DUE FOR A VERY LARGE BONUS IN VIEW OF THE EX-EXTRA-SECRETARIAL DUTIES I DID FOR YOU ON COIRATH
1041

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

SOUTHERN HERE— I'VE JUST HAD A CALL FROM SHARON DALE, AND IT'S NOT GOOD... SHE'S PUTTING THE SQUEEZE ON FOR THAT ELIMINATION JOB

I DIDN'T ARGUE, JUST SAID I'D DISCUSS IT WITH YOU—

YOU HAVE, SOUTHERN

SHE'S DOWN AT HER COTTAGE, I TAKE IT? RIGHT... HENRY WILL PICK YOU UP IN HALF-AN-HOUR

1042

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

EARLY MORNING... AND SHARON DALE IS OUT IN HER SAILING DINGHY, A MILE OFF-SHORE

AH, THERE SHE IS, HENRY.. EARLY RISER, LOVES SAILING, HAS HER OWN DINGHY WITH A STRIPED SAIL...

...IT'S ALL IN THE RECORDS

THE POWERFUL CRUISER SWEEPS ROUND IN A GREAT CURVE, GATHERING SPEED

1043

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

NO-!

SHARON DALE SEES THE SHARP BOWS OF THE CRUISER SLICING TOWARDS HER

ALL RIGHT, HENRY...WE'LL GO HOME NOW

FOOLISH GIRL... SHE WAS ONE OF OUR *BEST* SECRETARIES, BUT SHE HAD TO GET GREEDY...

1044

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

MID-MORNING AT MODESTY'S PENT-HOUSE

MAY I COME UP, MODESTY?

YES OF COURSE, SIR GERALD— WILLIE SLIPPED OUT FOR A FEW MINUTES BUT HE'LL BE BACK SOON

THE GENTLEMAN WHO CAME IN JUST NOW— DO YOU KNOW WHERE HE WENT?

MISS BLAISE'S PENT-HOUSE— HE JUST WENT UP IN THE LIFT

ER— WHY D'YOU ASK, MISS?

THIRTY SECONDS LATER...

OH, HE RATHER BLOCKED MY CAR WHEN HE PARKED— BUT DON'T BOTHER HIM, I CAN PROBABLY WRESTLE MY WAY OUT

SIR G. CAME IN A CAB, AN' SHE FOLLOWED IN A MINI... SO WHAT'S 'ER PLAY?

1045

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

AS BARBARA MARSH GETS INTO HER CAR

GEORGE! RING MISS BLAISE, GIVE 'ER THIS CAR NUMBER AND SAY I'VE BORROWED 'ER DAIMLER DART TO GO FISHING

EH? ER-RIGHT, MR GARVIN!

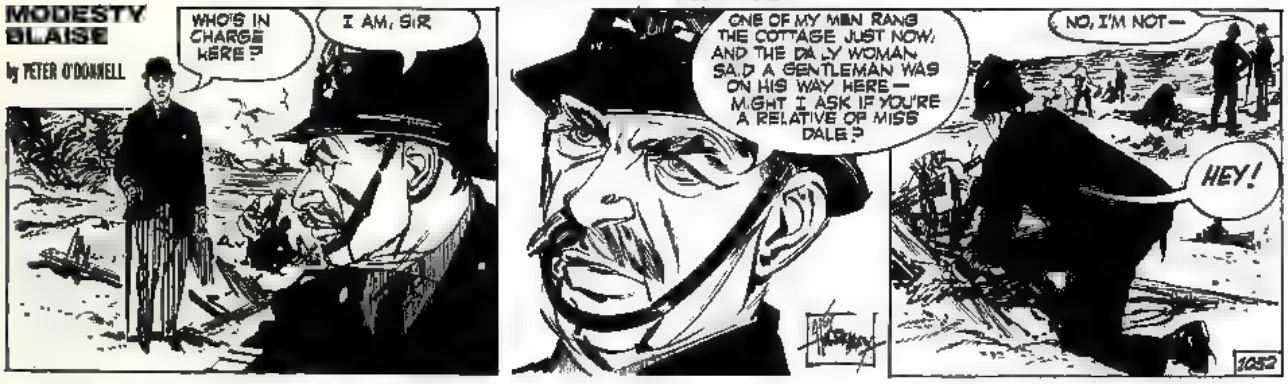
TWO MINUTES LATER WILLIE EASES THROUGH THE TRAFFIC, KEEPING THE MINI IN SIGHT...

NOW WHY WOULD THAT SMOOTH LITTLE BIRD FOLLOW SIR G AN' CHECK THAT HE'S SEEING THE PRINCESS...?

1046

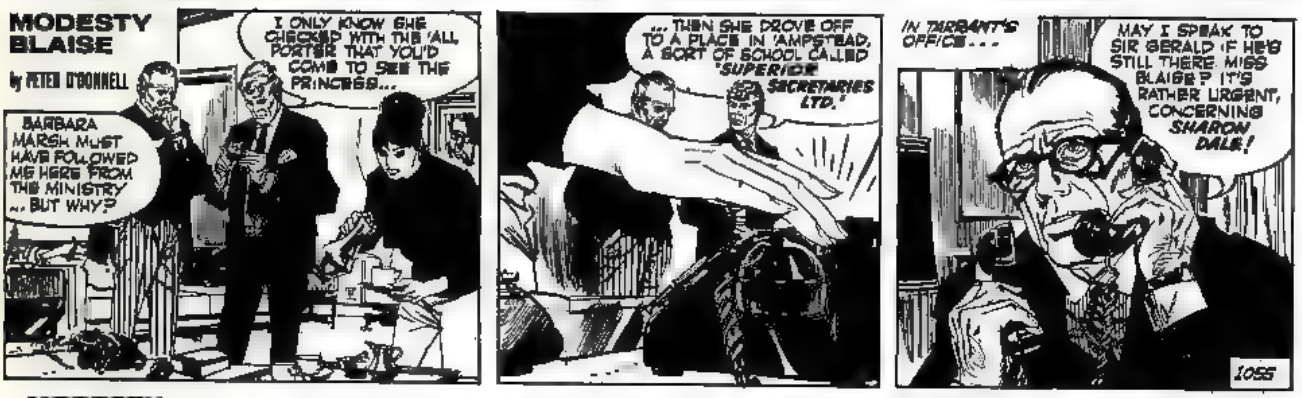
THE HEAD GIRLS

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
WILLIE'S MESSAGE IS PASSED TO MODESTY...
I'LL RING MY OFFICE AND PUT FRASER ON IT
WILL & MAY BE ON TO SOMETHING— CAN YOU TRACE THIS CAR NUMBER AND FIND THE OWNER, SIR GERALD?
HAVE YOU ANY IDEA WHAT THIS IS ABOUT?
IT'S SUDDEN... I WONDER IF SOMEONE TAILED YOU HERE, AND WILLIE SPOTTED THE TAIL...?
IN THE BIG HOUSE OF "SUPERIOR SECRETARIES LTD," THE PRINCIPAL IS MAKING A TOUR OF INSPECTION
THIS IS THE GRADE THREE CLASS ON A FIVE-HOUR TEST, SIR
WE'LL MOVE ON, MRS. FELSTED
1047
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
THAT COVERS NORMAL TRAINING, SIR— DRESS, BEAUTY, SOCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.. AND WE ASSESS THE GIRLS FOR SPECIAL WORK DURING THIS STAGE
I KNOW IT, MRS. FELSTED, AND I'M CHECKING IT— SO CARRY ON
BUT YOU KNOW THE WHOLE SYSTEM, OF COURSE
VERY WELL, SIR, WE'LL GO THROUGH TO THE SPECIAL SECTION
1048
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
WE OCCASIONALLY FIND A GIRL WHO CAN BE TRAINED TO CARRY OUT EMERGENCY PROCEDURE—
WE CAN DO WITH ONE NOW MRS. FELSTED. IT'S IMPORTANT TO HAVE A RELIABLE KILLER ON OUR BOOKS
BUT YOU HAVE SHARON DALE, SIR— A VERY ABLE GIRL
NOT ANY LONGER, MRS. FELSTED... SHE GOT GREEDY
OH, WHAT A PITY! I DON'T THINK ANY OF OUR THREE PRESENT TRAINEES WILL BE SUITABLE, BUT WE SHALL KEEP LOOKING, OF COURSE
1049
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
THIS IS THE M.T ROOM, OF COURSE, AND THESE THREE GIRLS ARE ON THE FINAL TWO WEEKS OF TRAINING
RIGHT... I'LL RUN A TEST ON THEM MYSELF, MRS. FELSTED
IN THE ROAD OUTSIDE THE BIG HOUSE, WILLIE GARVIN TAILS THE SMALL CAR... AND SEES IT TURN INTO THE DRIVE...
"SUPERIOR SECRETARIES"... SO WHAT? MIGHT MEAN SOMETHING IF I KNEW WHO SHE WAS... BETTER GET BACK AN TELL MODESTY
1050
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
IN MODESTY'S PENT-HOUSE...
IF SOMEONE WANTED THE NEW CERAMIC PROCESS, WHY KILL BELL AND DESTROY THE ONLY FORMULA IN EXISTENCE? IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE, MODESTY!
IT WILL— WHEN WE KNOW ENOUGH
DID YOU TAKE WILLIE'S TIP ABOUT CHECKING BELL'S SECRETARY, SHARON DALE?
YES... I'VE SENT BENTON DOWN TO HER COTTAGE ON THE COAST
IN A BAY THREE MILES NORTH OF THE COTTAGE...
FELLER FROM LONDON'S BEEN AT THE COTTAGE, ASKING FOR HER, SARGE— ON HIS WAY HERE NOW
SHE WON'T BE SEEING ANYBODY
1051


MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
WHO'S IN CHARGE HERE?
I AM, SIR
ONE OF MY MEN RANG THE COTTAGE JUST NOW, AND THE DAILY WOMAN SAID A GENTLEMAN WAS ON HIS WAY HERE— MIGHT I ASK IF YOU'RE A RELATIVE OF MISS DALE?
NO, I'M NOT—
HEY!
1052

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
IS THAT SHARON DALE?
IT WAS SIR...
...NOW MIGHT I ASK WHO YOU ARE?
'SCUSE ME, SARGE— FOUND HER HANDBAG HOOKED ON A BIT OF FLOATING WRECKAGE
GOOD— MY NAME'S BENTON
I'LL TAKE A LOOK IN THAT HANDBAG, PLEASE
OH...! VERY GOOD, SIR
1053

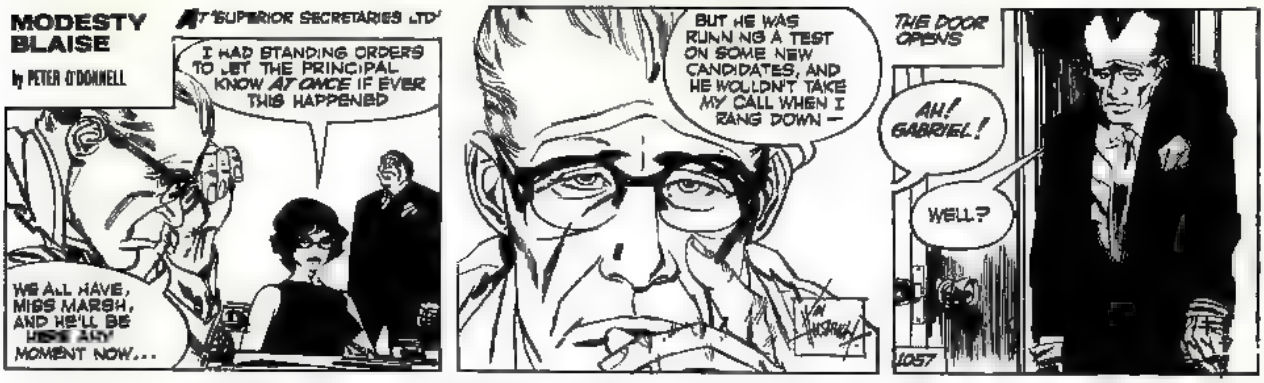
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
WILLIE GARVIN RETURNS
HALLO, WILLIE LOVE— SIR GERALD'S JUST GETTING AN ANSWER ON THAT CAR REGISTRATION NUMBER
DARK HAIRED GIRL DRIVING IT, PRINCESS, SMASHING PIECE — SHE'D TAILED SIR G HERE, SO I RECKONED I'D BETTER SEE WHERE SHE WENT
YES... THANK YOU, FRASER
HER NAME IS BARBARA MARSH... SHE'S SECRETARY TO THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE HIMSELF!
BLIMEY...
WITH SHARON DALE, THAT MAKES TWO TOP SECRETARIES WE'RE CURIOUS ABOUT
1054


MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
I ONLY KNOW SHE CHECKED WITH THE 'ALL PORTER THAT YOU'D COME TO SEE THE PRINCESS...
BARBARA MARSH MUST HAVE FOLLOWED ME HERE FROM THE MINISTRY ... BUT WHY?
... THEN SHE DROVE OFF TO A PLACE IN 'AMPSTEAD, A SORT OF SCHOOL CALLED 'SUPERIOR SECRETARIES LTD.'
IN TARRANT'S OFFICE...
MAY I SPEAK TO SIR GERALD IF HE'S STILL THERE. MISS BLAISE? IT'S RATHER URGENT, CONCERNING SHARON DALE!
1055

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
SHARON DALE DEAD?
DROWNED, SIR GERALD— BENTON'S JUST REPORTED AND I'VE STILL GOT H.M ON THE OTHER LINE
FRASER RELAYS A SERIES OF QUICK QUESTIONS
ALL RIGHT... NOW ASK BENTON IF THERE WAS ANYTHING SIGNIFICANT IN THE HANDBAG
JUST A DRIVING LICENCE... CLUB MEMBERSHIP CARDS... AND A CARD FOR SOMETHING CALLED 'SUPERIOR SECRETARIES LTD'
THANK YOU, FRASER... NO, NEVER MIND ABOUT THE ADDRESS — WE KNOW IT

THE HEAD GIRLS

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL


AT 'SUPERIOR SECRETARIES LTD'
I HAD STANDING ORDERS TO LET THE PRINCIPAL KNOW AT ONCE IF EVER THIS HAPPENED
WE ALL HAVE, MISS MARSH, AND HE'LL BE HERE ANY MOMENT NOW...
BUT HE WAS RUNNING A TEST ON SOME NEW CANDIDATES, AND HE WOULDN'T TAKE MY CALL WHEN I RANG DOWN —
THE DOOR OPENS
AH! GABRIEL!
WELL?
1057

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL

THERE'S ONE EVENTUALITY WHICH ALL STAFF HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO REPORT, REGARDLESS OF SECURITY
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, MARSH? IT'S A BREACH OF SECURITY
IT'S HAPPENED, GABRIEL
YES... TARRANT WAS CALLED IN ON THIS CARSON BELL AFFAIR, THE CERAMIC FORMULA — AND HE WENT STRAIGHT FROM THE MINISTRY TO MODESTY BLAISE
AHH... BLAISE!
AND GARVIN...
1058

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL

SO BLAISE AND GARVIN ARE SNIFFING AROUND — WHY WORRY? THEY'LL NEVER GET A LEAD ON US, GABRIEL
THEY WILL, SOUTHERN I KNOW THEM... TONIGHT, TOMORROW, SOMETIME SOON THEY'LL BE HERE
1059
THE ONLY REASON I'M NOT WORRIED IS THAT I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS...

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL

BUT WHY CLOSE THE SCHOOL, GABRIEL? IT'S RUNNING LIKE A DREAM — WE'RE TRAINING GIRLS WHO GET JOBS THAT YIELD INFORMATION IN GOLD NUGGETS!
BARBARA MARSH GOT US THE BELL CERAMIC FORMULA — THAT ALONE ADDS UP TO MILLIONS!
YES, IT'S THE ONE BIG FISH I'VE BEEN ANGLING FOR HERE, SOUTHERN...
WE WIND UP THIS BRANCH OF SUPERIOR SECRETARIES NOW... THEN WE WAIT FOR BLAISE AND GARVIN TO SHOW UP FOR KILLING
1060

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL

AT MODESTY'S PENT HOUSE
THE WHOLE THING STEMS FROM SUPERIOR SECRETARIES LTD.— BUT A POLICE SWOOP MIGHT YIELD NO EVIDENCE AT ALL
YOU WANT A SQUAD STANDING BY WHILE SOMEONE DOES A QUIET LITTLE SNOOP THROUGH THE PLACE, SIR G... TONIGHT, SAY
YES—AH— CAN YOU SUGGEST ANYONE?
I HAVE LAID OUT ATTIRE AND ACCESSORIES FOR MR. GARVIN AND YOURSELF, MISS BLAISE— WILL YOU REQUIRE THE COLT OR THE MAB BREVETE?
1061

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
AT 'SUPERIOR SECRETARIES LTD.'...
NOTE THESE ORDERS, MRS. FELSTED —
WE CLOSE THIS PLACE TODAY — YOU CAN TELL THE ORDINARY TRAINEES ANY STORY YOU LIKE, AND RETURN THEIR FEES —
ARRANGE FOR TRANSFER OF THE THREE SPECIAL TRAINEES TO OUR HAMBURG BRANCH — I WANT THIS WHOLE HOUSE EMPTY BY DUSK
YOU GO WITH THE SPECIAL TRAINEES — USE THE EMERGENCY SYSTEM FOR PASSPORTS — AND ROUTE —
QUESTIONS?
ALL QUITE CLEAR THANK YOU, SIR
1062

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
HERE'S THE BELL FORMULA AND PROCESS
GIVE IT TO HENRY, THEN GO AND HELP MRS. FELSTED WITH THE EVACUATION
HENRY — MICROFILM IT AND DESTROY THE ORIGINAL
SO YOU, AND I, AND HENRY WAIT FOR BLAISE AND GARVIN...
...WHAT HAPPENS AFTER WE'VE KILLED THEM, GABRIEL? AND WHAT ABOUT BARBARA MARSH?
IT'S ALL ARRANGED... IT WAS ALL ARRANGED LONG AGO, BEFORE I PUT YOU IN CHARGE HERE, SOUTHERN
1063

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
NIGHT AT 'SUPERIOR SECRETARIES LTD'...
I STILL THINK WE COULD BE PLAYING THIS WRONG, GABRIEL — BLAISE AND GARVIN MAY NEVER GET ON TO US HERE
SOUTHERN... THEY HAVEN'T A TENTH OF MY BRAINS, BUT THEY'LL PICK UP A LEAD BECAUSE THEY'RE LUCKY — ANYONE WHO CROSSES ME TWICE AND STAYS ALIVE HAS TO BE LUCKY
BUT I'VE SPENT A LONG TIME PLANNING TO MAKE SURE THEIR LUCK RUNS OUT NEXT TIME
1064

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
A POLICE CORDON MOVES QUIETLY INTO POSITION ROUND THE BIG HOUSE...
NO LIGHTS SHOWING IN THE HOUSE, AND EVERYTHING SEEMS VERY QUIET... BUT I DON'T LIKE THE FEEL OF IT, MODESTY
NEITHER DO I... AND THAT'S GOOD
AH, HERE'S WILLIE
NO ALARMS IN THE GROUNDS, PRINCESS, AND WE COULD GET IN THE 'OUSE A DOZEN WAYS — ADDS UP TO A NICE RICH SMELL OF TROUBLE, I RECKON
YES... IT SEEMS WE'RE ON THE RIGHT LINES, WILLIE — LET'S GO
1065

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
MODESTY, YOU'RE TO CALL ME ON THAT POCKET TRANSMITTER THE MOMENT YOU HIT ANY TROUBLE
DON'T WORRY... WE ONLY DO THINGS THE HARD WAY WHEN WE HAVE TO
BUT BE PATIENT, THAT'S A BIG HOUSE TO SEARCH — I THINK THEY'VE GOT BELL'S FORMULA SOMEHOW, AND IF YOU MOVE TOO SOON THEY MAY DESTROY IT
FIVE MINUTES LATER...
Slip the catch and chance it, Princess?
No... cut out the pane and check for alarm wiring — I don't think we've any chances to waste, Willie
1066

THE HEAD GIRLS

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL

MODESTY AND WILLIE PROWL THROUGH THE EMPTY CLASS-ROOMS OF "SUPERIOR SECRETARIES LTD."
Fashion an' beauty, secretarial an' social... everything for making the perfect secretary, but nothing fishy, Princess...
Willie... we've worked our way round the house on all floors— but the area doesn't add up. I think there's a section in the middle that we've missed
1067

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL

ah... we missed this door first time round, and it leads inwards, away from the outside rooms!
ah, that's more like it... 'ang on while I tickle this lock a bit, Princess
Sorry, there's no need, Willie— it's open
1068

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL

THE 'SPECIAL SECTION' OF THE HOUSE IS WELL-LIT. . .
Blimey— what kind of secretary needs training in guns, knives and poison?
The Sharon Dale kind
IN A ROOM ABOVE...
THEY'RE HERE, SOUTHERN... I TOLD YOU!
1069

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL

THEY'RE MOVING ON INTO THE M.T. ROOM— WE'LL HAVE THEM ON CAMERA TWO IN A MOMENT
CUT IN THE SOUND... I WANT TO HEAR WHAT THEY MAKE OF IT ALL
Strewth... what's this lot, Princess?
1070

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL

Angels, zebras, masks ...what's all the toys for? Jolly games the ideal secretary can play with the boss?
IN THE UPPER ROOM, THE WHISPERING VOICES COME THROUGH CLEARLY
No... but this rings some kind of bell with me, Willie...
Ah, now I've got it... Wang!
1071

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL

Young Weng took a MEMORY TRAINING course, and I had a look at it - the details were different, but this set-up is on the same principle
How's it work, Princess?
Visual images—you have key letters for all digits from zero to nine...
SHE'S GOT IT, GABRIEL!
...and you have a particular object for each key letter— like zebra equals Z equals zero
1072

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL

MEMORY training...
If you want to memorise a four-digit number you make a mental picture of the key objects for those digits
Maybe a diver with an apple on her head, taking off from a zebra with a mask hanging on its tail— the crazier, the better...
IN THE UPPER ROOM, GABRIEL WATCHES AND LISTENS...
...that's novice stuff, but I'd say a good student who took the whole course could memorise PAGES of material, Willie
like Barbara Marsh ...AND THE BELL FORMULA?
1073

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL

Yes... Barbara Marsh typed a single copy of the formula in the Minister's office, at Carson Bell's dictation— and she memorised the lot, Willie
If that formula's stuck in the Marsh girl's head, we've got to nail 'er...
A VOICE FROM A HIDDEN AMPLIFIER BREAKS IN ON THE QUIET WHISPERING
THE LATE BARBARA MARSH HAS ALREADY BEEN NAILED, GARVIN... I'VE GOT THE FORMULA, AND SHE NEVER TELL ANYONE ELSE NOW
1074

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL

WONDERING WHO I AM, B.A.SE? TAKE A LOOK TO YOUR RIGHT
IN THE MEMORY TRAINING ROOM, A PANEL SLIDES ASIDE
REMEMBER ME?
GABRIEL... WE COULD'VE MADE A FAIR GUESS
YES— IT'S HIS KIND OF SET-UP
1075

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL

TWO HUNDRED YARDS FROM THE BIG HOUSE.
CHECKED THE CORDON, INSPECTOR?
YES, SIR
NOBODY CAN GET OUT OF THAT PLACE WITHOUT BEING PICKED UP
IN THE MEMORY TRAINING ROOM, WILLIE SLIDES THE MINIATURE TRANSMITTER FROM HIS POCKET
I EXPECTED IT
YOU'RE PLAYING A BAD HAND, GABRIEL— THERE'S A CORDON ALL ROUND THIS HOUSE
1076

THE HEAD GIRLS

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL

YES .. TRY CALLING THE POLICE CORDON ON THAT TRANSMITTER GARVIN
OR MAYBE YOU'D LIKE TO FIRE A COUPLE OF WARNING SHOTS, BLAISE?
GO AHEAD! YOU'RE IN THE SPECIAL SECTION NOW— IT'S FULLY SCREENED AGAINST TRANSMISSION AND IT'S SOUNDPROOF
1077

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL

WILLIE SPEAKS IN ARABIC, AND MODESTY ANSWERS IN THE SAME TONGUE ..

What's the move Princess?
We haven't got a good one — the way we came in is the only way out that we know of, so let's try it
WHAT ARE THEY SAYING?
I DON'T KNOW AND IT DOESN'T MATTER... JUST STAND BY TO SPRING THE TRAP, SOUTHERN
I'LL LEAD, WILLIE— COVER MY BACK AS WE GO
1078

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL

BACK TO BACK, MODESTY AND WILLIE MOVE WARILY OUT OF THE MEMORY TRAINING ROOM...

BE SEEING YOU
SHORT PASSAGE.. THEN THE ARMS ROOM, THEN THAT STRONGROOM DOOR—
PANEL'S CLOSED BEHIND US, PRINCESS!
AND IN FRONT
1079

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL

SLIDING DOORS SLAM HOME TO SEAL OFF THE ENDS OF THE SHORT PASSAGE

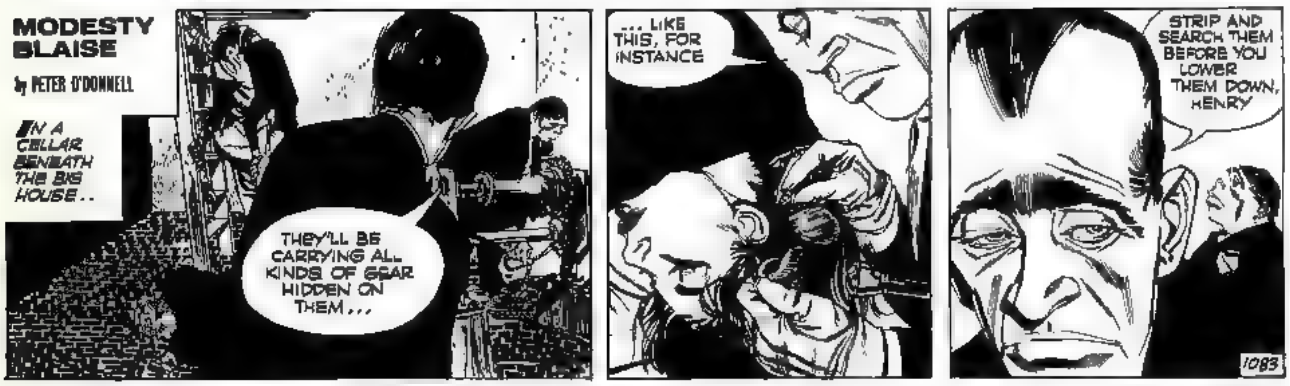
STEEL
I'LL TRY BLASTING A BIT OF THE BRICKWORK AWAY..
...YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO HOOK YOUR FINGERS ROUND THE EDGE OF THE STEEL AND —
PRINCESS... GAS!
1080

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL

IN THE SMALL SPACE, THE GAS TAKES QUICK EFFECT...

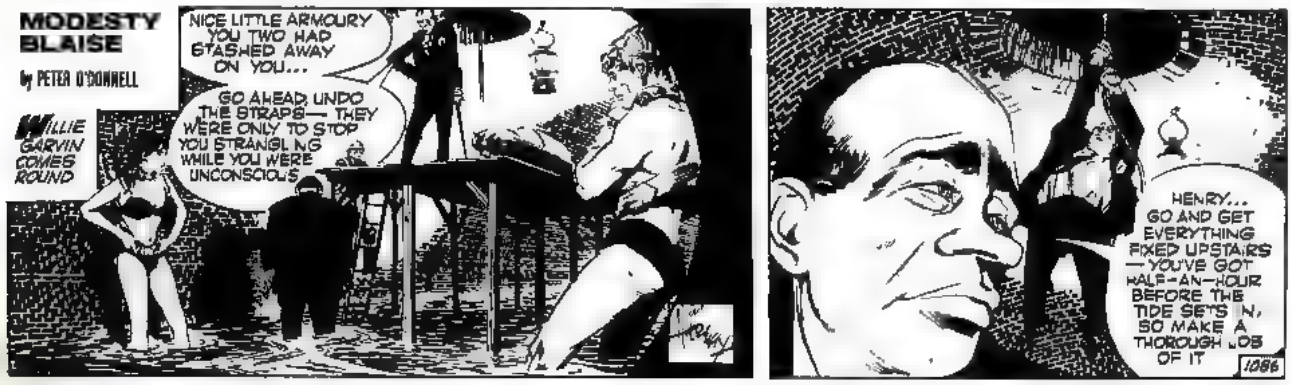
RIGHT, LET'S GET THEM OUT EVACUATE THE GAS FROM THAT TRAP SOUTHERN
YOU STILL HAVEN'T TOLD ME WHAT WE DO WITH THEM— OR HOW WE GET OUT THROUGH THAT POLICE CORDON!
YOU'LL SEE NOW
COME HENRY
1081

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
MODESTY AND WILLIE ARE BROUGHT OUT OF THE GAS TRAP...
YOU CARRY THE GIRL, SOUTHERN
THREE MINUTES LATER, IN A GROUND-FLOOR STORE-ROOM, HENRY RIPS AWAY A SECTION OF LINOLEUM
A SURPRISE SOUTHERN?
A HELL OF A SURPRISE!
1082


MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
IN A CELLAR BENEATH THE BIG HOUSE..
THEY'LL BE CARRYING ALL KINDS OF GEAR HIDDEN ON THEM...
...LIKE THIS, FOR INSTANCE
STRIP AND SEARCH THEM BEFORE YOU LOWER THEM DOWN, HENRY
1083

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
YOU NEXT, SOUTHERN
WE'RE GOING DOWN?
THAT'S RIGHT.. WE DON'T GO OUT THROUGH THAT CORDON, WE GO OUT UNDER IT... UNDERGROUND FOR FIVE MILES
RIGHT, HENRY—MAKE FAST, GO DOWN AND LOOSE HER, THEN COME UP AND LOWER SOUTHERN
1084

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
IN A THIRTY FOOT WIDE TUNNEL, WHERE THE RIVER FLEET RUNS UNDERGROUND, MODESTY BLAISE ROUSES MUZZILY FROM UNCONSCIOUSNESS
STAND AWAY FROM HER, SOUTHERN! SHE'S COMING ROUND
WELCOME TO YOUR NEW, FINAL HOME, BLAISE
1085


MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
WILLIE GARVIN COMES ROUND
NICE LITTLE ARMOURY YOU TWO HAD STASHED AWAY ON YOU...
GO AHEAD, UNDO THE STRAPS— THEY WERE ONLY TO STOP YOU STRANGLING WHILE YOU WERE UNCONSCIOUS
HENRY... GO AND GET EVERYTHING FIXED UPSTAIRS —YOU'VE GOT HALF-AN-HOUR BEFORE THE TIDE SETS IN, SO MAKE A THOROUGH JOB OF IT
1086

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

THE RIVER FLEET... HEARD OF T. BLAISE? IT RUNS UNDERGROUND ALL THE WAY TO FLEET STREET AND COMES OUT IN THE THAMES, AT BLACKFRIARS...
DANGEROUS PLACE ... GET A DOWNPOUR AROUND HAMPSTEAD AND THE TUNNEL FILLS UP IN NO TIME — YOU'LL BE GLAD TO KNOW THE FORECAST IS DRY
NOT SO GLAD TO KNOW THE TIDE'S COMING IN, AND THAT FILLS THE TUNNEL, TOO — UP TO ABOUT HERE, ANYWAY
1087

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

SO THE TIDE COMES IN AND THEY DROWN... IT'S NICE AND SLOW, GABRIEL
I WANT IT TO BE— BLAISE AND GARVIN COST ME MILLIONS A WHILE BACK
SUPPOSE THE POLICE GET JUMPY AND COME IN — I MEAN BEFORE THE TIDE'S RISEN HIGH ENOUGH?
SOUTHERN... I'M HOPING THEY'LL DO JUST THAT!
1088

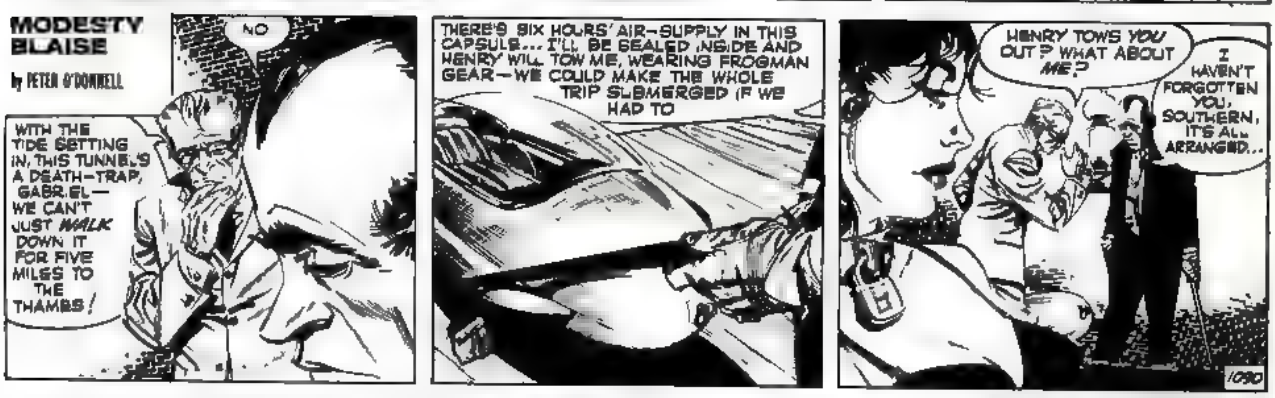
MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

YOU WANT THE POLICE CORDON TO MOVE IN, GABRIEL?
WHY NOT? THEY'LL STILL BE TRYING TO BREAK INTO THE SPECIAL SECTION WHEN THE WHOLE HOUSE GOES UP...
... HENRY'S SETTING UP THE TIME-BOMB NOW
1089

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL


NO
WITH THE TIDE SETTING IN, THIS TUNNEL'S A DEATH-TRAP, GABRIEL— WE CAN'T JUST WALK DOWN IT FOR FIVE MILES TO THE THAMES!
THERE'S SIX HOURS' AIR-SUPPLY IN THIS CAPSULE... I'LL BE SEALED INSIDE AND HENRY WILL TOW ME, WEARING FROGMAN GEAR— WE COULD MAKE THE WHOLE TRIP SUBMERGED IF WE HAD TO
HENRY TOWS YOU OUT? WHAT ABOUT ME?
I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN YOU, SOUTHERN, IT'S ALL ARRANGED...
1090

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

DID YOU DESTROY THE TYPESCRIPT OF THAT FORMULA, SOUTHERN?
EH? YES, AS SOON AS WE'D FILMED IT— HENRY BURNT THE ORIGINAL!
LOOK, WHAT HAVE YOU ARRANGED ABOUT ME? AND WHY THE HELL GO TO ALL THIS TROUBLE OVER BLAISE AND GARVIN IF YOU'RE GOING TO SHOOT THEM NOW—?
I'M NOT GOING TO SHOOT THEM, SOUTHERN...
I'M JUST DISSOLVING OUR PARTNERSHIP
1091

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

SOUTHERN'S BODY PLUNGES DOWN INTO THE WATER.
YOU'RE A LOVELY FELLER, GABRIEL...
ALWAYS KILL YOUR FRIENDS NICE AN' QUICK
I DON'T LIKE SHARING PROFITS, GARVIN — EVEN WHEN THEY'RE BIG
THERE'S MILLIONS IN HERE... A SCRAP OF MICRO-FILM WITH BELL'S CERAMIC FORMULA, THE ONLY COPY IN EXISTENCE NOW — AND IT'S ALL MINE!
1092

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

HENRY WORKS METHODICALLY, SPRAYING PETROL THROUGH SEVERAL ROOMS OF THE BIG HOUSE
AND IN THE TUNNEL BELOW...
I'D HAVE LIKED TO WATCH YOU DIE, BUT HENRY WILL JOIN US IN TWENTY MINUTES AND THEN I'LL BE LEAVING YOU..
I WOULDN'T BANK ON IT, GABRIEL — YOU'VE SLIPPED UP
WHERE DO YOU THINK BLUFF WILL GET YOU, BLAISE?
1093

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

IF THE BELL FORMULA IS THERE AND WE MOVE TOO SOON, IT MIGHT BE DESTROYED
NOTHING FROM MODESTY BLAISE, SIR — HOW LONG ARE YOU PREPARED TO WAIT?
IF SOMETHING'S GONE WRONG AND WE MOVE TOO LATE, MISS BLAISE AND FRIEND MIGHT BE DESTROYED
CALLS FOR A NICE SENSE OF VALUES DOESN'T IT, INSPECTOR?
ALL RIGHT — BE READY TO CLOSE IN AFTER FIFTEEN MINUTES
WE CAN ALWAYS SAY WE WANTED TO GET OUT OF THE RAIN.
1094

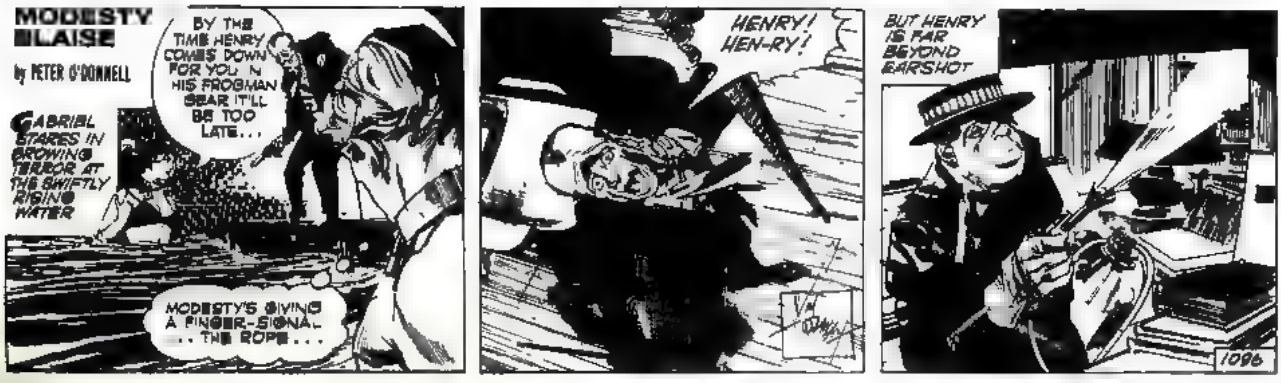
MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

SO?
YOU SAID THE TIDE WOULD FILL THIS TUNNEL..
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN WATCHING THE WATERS. IT'S BEEN TWO FEET IN THE LAST FIVE MINUTES AND IT'S MOVING DOWN-STREAM — THAT'S NOT THE SEA, GABRIEL. IT'S STORM WATER!
YOUR WEATHER-FORECAST WAS WRONG — IT'S RAINING, AND THIS TUNNEL'S GOING TO BE FULL LONG BEFORE HENRY COMES DOWN TO TOW YOU OUT!
1095

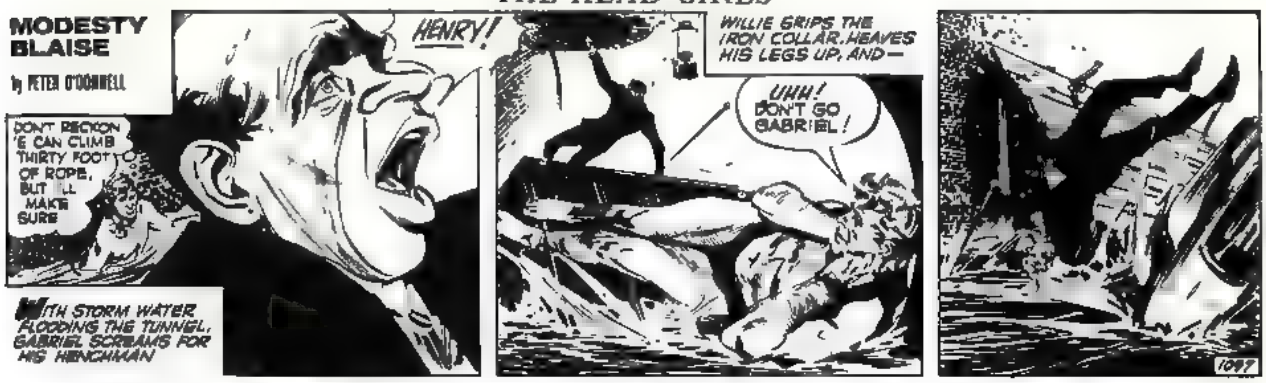
MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL


BY THE TIME HENRY COMES DOWN FOR YOU IN HIS FROGMAN GEAR, IT'LL BE TOO LATE...
GABRIEL STARES IN GROWING TERROR AT THE SWIFTLY RISING WATER
MODESTY'S GIVING A FINGER-SIGNAL ... THE ROPE...
HENRY! HEN-RY!
BUT HENRY IS FAR BEYOND EARSHOT
1096

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL


HENRY!
DON'T RECKON 'E CAN CLIMB THIRTY FOOT O' ROPE, BUT I'LL MAKE SURE
WITH STORM WATER FLOODING THE TUNNEL, GABRIEL SCREAMS FOR HIS HENCHMAN!
WILLIE GRIPS THE IRON COLLAR, HEAVES HIS LEGS UP, AND—
UHH!
DON'T GO GABRIEL!
1097

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

UNDER WILLIE'S SAVAGE KICK, THE PLATFORM HEELS OVER AND COLLAPSES
TEMPER...
I'LL. . KILL YOU, GARVIN! I'LL TEAR YOUR THROAT OUT—!
TRY IT, GABRIEL— WITH EITHER OF US
YOU'VE LOST YOUR GUN SO YOU'LL HAVE TO GET CLOSE
1098

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

SHAKING WITH RAGE AND PANIC, GABRIEL SCREAMS AGAIN FOR HENRY
HENRY! HELP, DAMN YOU! I CAN'T SWIM!
YOU CAN'T SHOUT LOUD ENOUGH EITHER —BUT GO ON, IT DOES YOU GOOD TO UNBURDEN YOURSELF I ALWAYS SAY
THE CAPSULE! SAFE IN THAT...!
1099

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

AS GABRIEL CLUTCHES THE DRIFTING CAPSULE...
PITY... I WAS 'OPING HE WOULDN'T THINK OF THAT, PRINCESS
IT'S A LONG WAY TO THE THAMES, AND THERE'S NOBODY TO TOW HIM NOW... WE MIGHT STILL GET A DRAW ON OUR LAST CAPER, WILLIE LOVE
I'VE GOT SIX HOURS OF AIR SUPPLY HERE! YOU'LL BE DEAD IN TEN MINUTES BLAISE!
100

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

GABRIEL SEALS THE CANOPY, CUTS IN THE AIR-SUPPLY. . AND THE CAPSULE DRIFTS STEADILY ON
'OPE HE GETS STUCK.
FORGET HIM, WILLIE —HAVE YOU GOT A PROBE HIDDEN ON YOU? THEY FOUND EVERYTHING I WAS CARRYING
SAME 'ERE... BUT I'VE 'AD A FOOT ON SOUTHERN'S BODY EVER SINCE GABRIEL BLASTED 'IM — THE KEYS MIGHT BE IN 'IS POCKET
1101

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
Willie searches Southern's body...
STREWTH... WHOEVER PUT THIS LOCK ON BUNGED UP THE 'OLE WITH SOMETHING THAT'S SET LIKE ROCK!
NO KEYS, PRINCESS. JUST THIS PIPE-CLEANING GADGET — BUT IT'S GOT A SPIKE THAT MIGHT DO AS A PROBE
THAT WAS HENRY.
I CAME ROUND JUST AS SOUTHERN WAS PUTTING THE LOCK ON THIS COLLAR, AND HE BACKED OFF FAST, SO IT MIGHT BE CLEAR...
'AVE A GO, THEN — SLOW CATCH COMING UP
102
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
The padlock yields to Modesty's careful probing
AHH...
LET'S GET YOU OUT OF THAT, WILLIE
BETTER NOT COUNT ON IT, PRINCESS
After only ten seconds..
YOU'RE RIGHT — IT'S JAMMED SOLID
TOO BAD...
103
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
The water is rising more slowly now... but still rising
I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN FIND UP IN THE HOUSE TO GET YOU LOOSE — HELP ME REACH THAT ROPE, WILLIE
HENRY'S UP THERE, SO FOR GAWD'S SAKE GO CAREFUL, PRINCESS — NO SENSE IN BOTH OF US GETTING SIGNED OFF
SHUT UP! AND GIVE ME A BOOST... NOW!
104
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
Modesty climbs up the shaft to the store-room above...
BOLT-CUTTERS...? HACKSAW...? THERE'S NOTHING HERE — NOTHING!
I'VE GOT FOUR — MAYBE FIVE MINUTES BEFORE THE WATER'S OVER WILLIE'S HEAD...
105
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
In the tunnel, Willie gropes at Southern's dead body under the rising water...
WORTH TRYING... MIGHT GET MESELF ANOTHER COUPLA MINUTES..
And in the house above
GOT TO FIND SOMETHING...
HENRY'S AQUALUNG GEAR!
106

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
THIS WILL KEEP WILLIE ALIVE WHILE I FIND SOME WAY TO CUT THROUGH THE SHACKLE...!
A WHISPER OF SOUND WARNS MODESTY, AND SHE TWISTS ASIDE . . .
1107
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
WITH THE FRIGHTFUL KNOWLEDGE THAT WILLIE GARVIN IS ONLY MINUTES FROM DROWNING, MODESTY FINDS HERSELF CONFRONTED BY THE MONSTROUS HENRY
WEAPONS IN THE WALL CASE...
THE AQUALUNG CYLINDER HURTLES PAST MODESTY'S HEAD . . .
1108
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
MODESTY GROPES IN THE WRECKAGE OF THE WALL-CASE WITH ITS ARRAY OF WEAPONS
GUN'S TOO LIGHT— NOT LOADED!
DELIBERATELY MODESTY PULLS THE TRIGGER TWICE, AND HENRY HEARS THE HAMMER FALL ON EMPTY CYLINDERS
GOT TO LET HIM KNOW THE GUN'S USELESS — IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO FINISH THIS FAST...
1109
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
NO BULLET IN GUN... NOW I KILL YOU!
MODESTY HOLDS HER GROUND... LETS HERSELF BE BORNE DOWN UNDER THE SUDDEN CHARGE...
...AND BRINGS HER HIDDEN LEFT HAND FORWARD AS SHE FALLS
1110
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
UHH!
HENRY'S MASSIVE BODY ROLLS LIMPLY ASIDE, IMPALED ON THE LONG STILETTO BY HIS OWN ONSLAUGHT
AND IN THE TUNNEL BELOW, THE RISING WATER COVERS WILLIE GARVIN'S NOSE AND MOUTH
1111

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
THE AQUALUNG GEAR IS USELESS
THE VALVE'S BROKEN...
ON THAT PRESSURE-SPRAYER —TUBING!
KEEP ALIVE, WILLIE... JUST A LITTLE LONGER... I'M COMING
1112

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
WITH A LENGTH OF TUBING, AND A RUBBER DUCK SNATCHED FROM THE MEMORY TRAINING ROOM, MODESTY DROPS STRAIGHT DOWN THE SHAFT...
OH MY GOD, THE WATER'S WELL OVER HIS HEAD!
BUT... THERE'S SOMETHING THERE...
WILLIE'S HANDS EMERGE, WAVING A PAIR OF TROUSERS WITH THE LEGS KNOTTED
1113

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
WILLIE DRAGS THE WET, BILLOWING TROUSERS DOWN BELOW THE SURFACE
HE'S USING SOUTHERN'S TROUSERS TO DRAG DOWN SOME AIR!
IT'S THE PRINCESS— SHE'S GOT A TUBE!
MODESTY TIES THE FREE END OF THE TUBE TO THE FLOATING RUBBER DUCK
HE'S BREATHING THROUGH IT... BE SAFE ENOUGH FOR TEN MINUTES OR SO NOW
1114

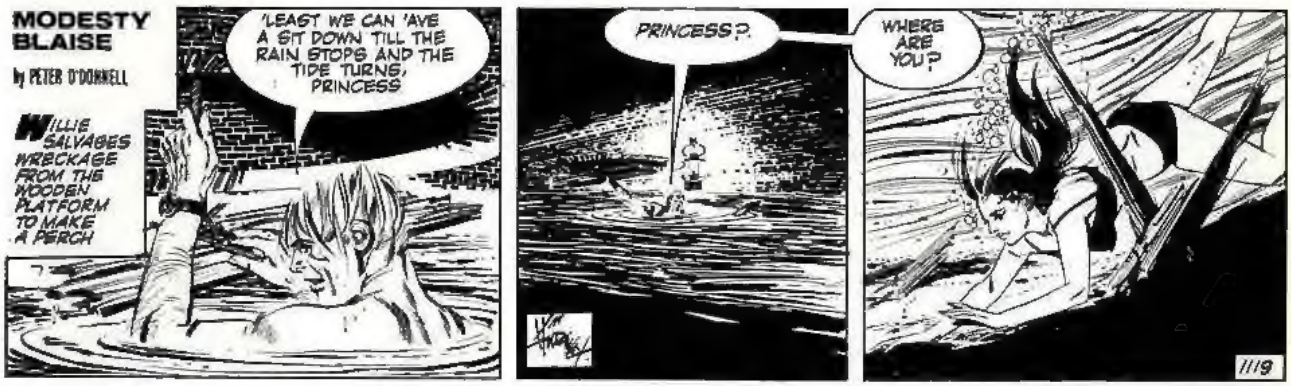
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
MODESTY CLIMBS THE SHAFT AGAIN...
PLACE STINKS OF PETROL... AND THERE'S A TICKING FROM THAT CRATE... MUST BE THE BOMB HENRY WAS SETTING UP
NO TIME TO TRY DEFUSING IT NOW—
BOLT-CUTTERS!
1115

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
TARRANT DECIDES TO ACT...
ALL RIGHT, INSPECTOR— SIGNAL THE WHOLE CORDON TO MOVE IN FAST!
VERY GOOD, SIR GERALD
THE GROUND SHAKES AS A GIANT EXPLOSION RENDS THE HOUSE APART
OH, MY GOD...
1116

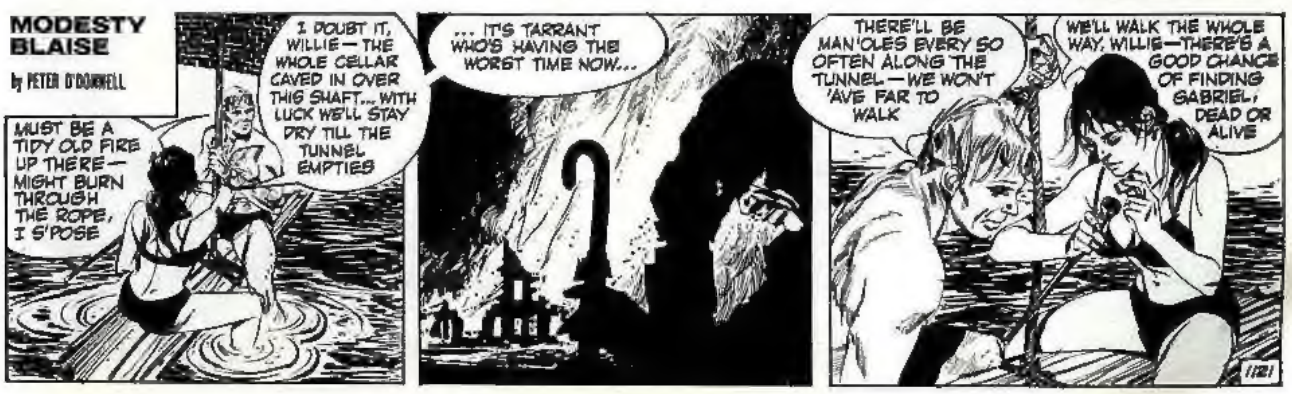
THE HEAD GIRLS

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
THE HOUSE COLLAPSES, AND GREAT TONGUES OF FLAME LEAP UP
NOBODY'S GOING TO COME OUT OF THAT ALIVE, SIR... I'M SORRY
YES... SO AM I
IN THE TUNNEL DEEP UNDER THE HOUSE, MODESTY FEELS THE TREMORS OF THE EXPLOSION
... BOMB WAS ON AN UPPER FLOOR... NOT MUCH SHOCK-WAVE HIT THE TUNNEL — SEEMS TO BE HOLDING
NOW...
1117

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
THE BOLT-CUTTER SHEARS THROUGH THE CHAIN, AND WILLIE'S HEAD BREAKS THE SURFACE...
ALL RIGHT, WILLIE LOVE?
PRETTY FAIR, PRINCESS — BUT THAT AIR-TUBE YOU GAVE ME 'AD A NASTY TASTE OF PETROL
I'LL BE MORE CAREFUL ANOTHER TIME
COME ON, THE WATER'S STILL RISING — WE'LL HAVE TO SIT THIS ONE OUT IN THE SHAFT
1118


MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
WILLIE SALVAGES WRECKAGE FROM THE WOODEN PLATFORM TO MAKE A PERCH
'LEAST WE CAN 'AVE A SIT DOWN TILL THE RAIN STOPS AND THE TIDE TURNS, PRINCESS
PRINCESS?
WHERE ARE YOU?
1119

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
MODESTY SURFACES...
YOU 'AD ME WORRIED! WHERE WERE YOU?
TREASURE-HUNTING ... LET'S GET ON THAT PERCH NOW, IF WE CAN!
STREWTH, WE COULD GO ON TOUR WITH THIS ACT...
AFTER FIVE MINUTES OF UNITED EFFORT..
I FOUND IT STUCK IN THE SLUDGE
GABRIEL'S CANE... WITH THE FORMULA ON MICRO-FILM IN IT
1120


MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
MUST BE A TIDY OLD FIRE UP THERE — MIGHT BURN THROUGH THE ROPE, I S'POSE
I DOUBT IT, WILLIE — THE WHOLE CELLAR CAVED IN OVER THIS SHAFT... WITH LUCK WE'LL STAY DRY TILL THE TUNNEL EMPTIES
... IT'S TARRANT WHO'S HAVING THE WORST TIME NOW...
THERE'LL BE MAN'OLES EVERY SO OFTEN ALONG THE TUNNEL — WE WON'T 'AVE FAR TO WALK
WE'LL WALK THE WHOLE WAY, WILLIE — THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE OF FINDING GABRIEL, DEAD OR ALIVE
1121

MODESTY BLAISE

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL

NOON, IN TARRANT'S OFFICE

IF THE WHOLE HOUSE BLEW UP, AT LEAST IT MUST HAVE BEEN A QUICK DEATH FOR THEM, SIR GERALD...

THE ADVANTAGES OF DYING QUICKLY HAVE ALWAYS SEEMED VERY MARGINAL TO ME, FRASER...

YES?

IT—IT'S *MODESTY BLAISE!* SHE AND GARVIN HAVE BEEN PICKED UP BY A PATROL LAUNCH OF THE THAMES POLICE!

1/22

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL

TARRANT ARRIVES AT THE THAMES POLICE H.Q., WAPPING...

DON'T BE SUCH A *BABY*, WILLIE— I'M ASHAMED OF YOU! I DIDN'T MAKE A FUSS, DID I?

WELL... ALL RIGHT, PRINCESS

I'LL LET 'IM DO IT, BUT I STILL THINK IT'S A DEAD LIBERTY!

MODESTY, MY DEAR—WHAT ON EARTH...?

OH, IT'S NOTHING— BUT THAMES WATER ISN'T EXACTLY PURE, AND IT'S WILLIE'S TURN FOR THE STOMACH PUMP

1/23

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL

TARRANT HEARS A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF MODESTY'S STORY...

SO *GABRIEL* WAS BEHIND THE WHOLE SET-UP...

YES... WE DIDN'T FIND HIM IN THE TUNNEL, SO IT LOOKS AS IF HE GOT CLEAR

BUT WITHOUT CARSON BELL'S FORMULA ... DO YOU KNOW WHO ACTUALLY MURDERED BELL?

GABRIEL HAD A TAME KILLER

ER... *HAD?*

YES, I WAS ABLE TO SEE TO THAT... COME ON, WILLIE LOVE, WE'LL LET SIR GERALD GIVE US A LIFT HOME

1/24